

UPI003

SCOWCROFT LL

(ALERT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- AMERICAN TROOPS AND AIRMEN, INCLUDING NUCLEAR BOMBER CREWS, WERE PUT ON ALERT TODAY BOTH AT HOME AND AT SOME OVERSEAS POINTS TODAY. THE MOVE WAS SAID RELATED TO THE MIDEAST SITUATION.

PENTAGON SURCES SAID THE ALERT FOLLOWED NOTIFICATION BY MOSCOW TO THE UNITED STATES THAT IT MIGHT SEND TROOPS TO THE MIDEAST TO HELP POLICE THE SHAKY TRUCE THERE.

EGYPT ASKED BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA WEDNESDAY TO DO SO. THE UNITED STATES SAID IT HAD NO SUCH INTENTION.

A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SOURCE STRESSED THAT THE ALERT WAS "PURELY PRECAUTIONARY AND A ROUTINE THING TO DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS." IT WAS NOT FULLY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, WHAT "THE SITUATION" WAS.

THE WHITE HOUSE, WHILE DECLINING IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION OF THE ALERT, SAID "THERE IS NO CRISIS ATMOSPHERE HERE" AND A PENTAGON SOURCE SAID "THINGS ARE NOT AS TENSE AS THEY MIGHT SEEM TO BE."

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON EXACTLY HOW WIDESPREAD THE ALERT WAS. IT WAS LEARNED THAT IT INCLUDED THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION AT FT. BRAGG, N.C., THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND (SAC) -- BOTH AT HOME AND AS FAR AWAY AS GUAM.

SO-CALLED "QUICK REACTION FORCES IN EUROPE AND ARMY AND AIR FORCE GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES WERE ALSO INVOLVED, AS WELL AS SOME AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNITS.

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GERMANS 10-25

WITH ALERT

BONN (UPI) -- A DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY HE WAS "AWARE" U.S. TROOPS WENT ON ALERT EARLY TODAY BUT SAID THE ALERT DID NOT INCLUDE WEST GERMAN OR OTHER NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) FORCES.

"YES, WE'RE AWARE OF THAT BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE REASON," THE WEST GERMAN SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE KNEW THAT U.S. FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE HAD BEEN ALERTED TODAY FOR POSSIBLE MOBILIZATION.

"IN THEORY, IT COULD BE THE MIDDLE EAST OR IT COULD BE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BUT OUR TROOPS ARE NOT ON THE ALERT AND NEITHER ARE NATO FORCES IN GENERAL, OR WE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT," HE SAID.

COMMENTING GENERALLY ON THE SITUATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID:

"IT'S A FACT THESE DAYS THAT AMERICAN ALERTS ARE MORE FREQUENT THAN THEY USED TO BE."

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